Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 22, 2022

Northern Border Regional Commission
James Cleveland Federal Building, Suite 1501
53 Pleasant Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Executive Director Grogan,

Thank you for the Northern Border Regional Commission's (NBRC) continued support of our Northern Border communities. The NBRC's investments in economic and community development projects throughout the Northern Border region play a critical role in creating jobs and driving economic growth in our region.

As the NBRC continues to strategically plan to meet the evolving needs of our Northern Border communities, we urge you to develop and administer programs to address staffing shortages of medical professionals in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. As you know, our communities are currently facing significant challenges in the recruitment and retention of qualified physicians and healthcare personnel.

To address these workforce challenges, the NBRC should use its existing authority to implement a J-1 visa waiver program for U.S.-trained physicians. This would allow nondomestic physicians trained in the United States to work in health professional shortage areas or medically underserved areas for three years. These physicians will provide critical medical services in rural areas of our states currently suffering from physician staffing shortages.

Similar programs are currently administered by the Delta Regional Authority and the Appalachian Regional Commission. In 2019 alone, the Delta Regional Authority processed 160 physician applications through their Delta Doctors program, significantly improving access to care in rural areas that often experience considerable challenges in physician recruitment and retention.

We appreciate your consideration of this opportunity and look forward to continuing to work with the NBRC to ensure our communities have the resources they need to succeed and thrive.

Sincerely,

Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

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John Katko
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
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